

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 12-14 have been amended. Claims 1-32 are pending and under consideration. Claims 1-11 and 16-32 are allowed.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Alon et al. (U.S. Patent 5,701,283).

Independent claim 12 recites "detecting first output signals of the optical detection device that correspond to a combination of signals corresponding to sections of the photodetector arranged in a radial direction, and/or outputs corresponding to a combination of signals corresponding to sections of the photodetector arranged diagonally." Thus, the combinations of signals correspond to sections arranged in the radial direction and/or diagonally. In contrast, Alon et al. discloses causing an accumulated charge to be transferred to successful pixels in the same column of pixels. Alon et al., Column 6, line 67 to Column 7, line 1. The columns correspond to a tangential direction of optical disk 100. Alon et al. FIG. 3. Thus, this reference does not disclose combining signals corresponding to sections arranged in a radial direction or diagonally.

Independent claim 14 recites "a detector to detect instantaneous outputs of the optical detection device." In contrast, Alon et al. discloses applying successive clocking signals to a detector matrix which are applied at a rate so that the charge is transferred down a row of pixels at a rate corresponding to the linear speed of the tracks passing below the detector matrix. Alon et al., Column 6, line 62 to Column 7, line 4. Thus, an accumulated charge is detected, as opposed to instantaneous outputs, as claimed.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Claims 1-11 and 16-32 are allowed.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 6-9-04

By: 

Michael J. Badagliacca
Registration No. 39,099

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501